

Actions of the 206th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine

Submitted by Secretary Theodore G. Fletcher

Meeting in Bangor on Oct. 25, 2025, the 206th Annual Diocesan Convention took the following actions:

Resolutions

Public Policy Resolutions:

1. Supporting and Advocating for Foster Children: recognizing the crisis in care in the foster care system in Maine, the Convention urged parishes and members of congregations to pray for children in foster care. Lamenting the broken nature of the foster care system in Maine, Convention encouraged all in the Diocese “to discern how it may serve and care for children in foster care and those offering care,” through volunteerism, mentorship, kinship support, legislative advocacy, and prayer.
2. Insisting on Access to the Ballot in all Elections: in a very close vote, Convention voiced its opposition to Maine Ballot Initiative 1, which revises Maine voting laws and restricts access to the ballot, especially absentee ballots.
3. Protecting Families from Guns: Also in a close vote, Convention voiced its support for Maine Ballot Initiative 2, adopting a “Red Flag” law, which seeks to remove guns from homes and individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Ministry Initiatives and Priorities:

1. Convention passed a resolution encouraging participation in the program “Walking Together” by 1) engaging in prayer, 2) encouraging the fostering of relationships with the vulnerable immigrant, LGBTQ+, and unhoused communities, 3) advocating for justice for those communities, 4) providing educational opportunities, and 5) offering tangible acts of service.

Canonical Changes:

1. Update and Changes to Business Practices for Parishes and Congregations, removing language requiring “audits” and providing for standards for regular parish financial examinations and reviews. Also changing the kinds of financial assets that may be investment vehicles.
2. Allowing the Treasurer to serve as Chair of the Diocesan Finance Committee, thereby removing the need for a second position
3. Changing the duties of the Secretary to include membership on the Diocesan Council

Elections to Diocesan Bodies and for Diocesan Officers:

Treasurer: Julian Sheffield, St Margaret's, Belfast

Secretary: Theodore G. Fletcher, St Andrew & St John, Southwest Harbor

Standing Committee:

Clergy – Anne McAlhany, Trinity Castine (second term);

Lay: Nancy Whitehouse, St Paul's, Brunswick

Trustees: The Rev. Timothy Boggs, Nathaniel Henshaw, Sandra McPhee, Carlos Mello, Nicholas Penfield.

Diocesan Council: Lay Area Representatives:

Acadie: Theodore G. Fletcher, St Andrew & St John, Southwest Harbor (second term)

Aurora Borealis: Benjamin Barr: St Andrew, Millinocket (second term)

Mid-coast: Lucia Elder, St Peter's Rockland (second term)

Heart of Maine: Jeff Mansir, Christ Church Gardiner (first term)

Southern Gateway: Julie Littlefield, St George's, York (second term)

Presumpscot: Open seat

Clergy and Lay Minimum pay standards: Convention passed resolutions providing for a 2.8% cost-of-living increase in minimum clergy salaries and lay employee hourly pay rates.

Budget: Convention passed the proposed 2026 budget without changes or amendments.